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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*[Signature]* Applicant: *ANTHONY J.* ~~James W.~~ Newbill et al : Portland, Oregon  
Serial No: 10/784,654 : Art Unit 3612  
Filed: 02/23/2004 : Examiner  
For: COMBINATION LATCH AND SUPPORT  
STRUCTURE FOR A VEHICLE SPARE  
WHEEL CARRIER : August 26, 2004

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D. C.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT 37 CFR 1.97

Sir:

The following information is provided in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97:

U. S. Patent 5,186,371 discloses a body mounted spare wheel carrier having a frame which swings about a vertical axis and carries a mechanism for manual lifting and lowering a spare wheel. The supporting frame engages a latch receptacle 24 fixedly mounted on the vehicle tailgate.

By way of background, U. S. Patent D473,835 discloses a spare wheel carrier having a horizontal arm which carries the spare wheel for travel about a vertical axis provided by a bracket bolted in place on a frame extension of a sport utility vehicle. A distal end of the arm engages a second support associated with a second extension on a vehicle frame to provide adequate support of the spare wheel assembly carrying arm.

By way of background, U. S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0024958 discloses a spare wheel carrier intended for use on a military version of a sports utility

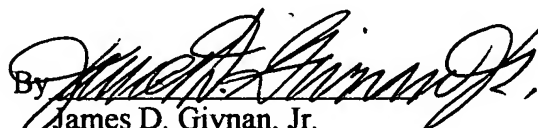
vehicle and termed a Hum Vee. A counterpart vehicle for civilian use is termed a Hummer. A horizontal arm swings about a vertical pivot and carries a winch for lifting and lowering a spare wheel assembly on a second or pivoted arm carried by the horizontal arm. A latch for the carrier includes a pin dropped through openings in an arm extension and a bumper mounted bracket.

U. S. Patent 6,659,318, issued to the present inventor, is incorporated herein by reference and discloses details of spare wheel carrier 22 as well as a modified spare wheel carrier having a manually operated arm 23 for depositing the wheel assembly on a ground surface and subsequent lifting of the spare wheel assembly for spare wheel storage.

A copy of each reference, together with a listing on PTO Form 1449, is submitted herewith. Applicant respectfully solicits the Examiner's consideration of the cited references and the entry thereof into the record of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. NEWBILL et al

By   
James D. Givnan, Jr.  
Their Agent

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FORM PTO-1449  
(REV. 7-01)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

SERIAL NO.

10/784.654

## LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT  
James W. Newbill, et alFILING DATE  
02/23/04GROUP  
3612

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
AA		5 1 8 6 3 7 1	2/16/93	Jozefezak	224	42.21	5/2/91
AB		D 4 7 3 8 3 5	4/29/03	Roehmer et al	D12	202	10/24/02
AC		U.S. 2 0 0 3 / 0 0 2 4 9 5 8	2/6/03	Slovick			7/31/01
AD		6 6 5 9 3 1 8	12/9/03	Newbill	224	503	9/14/01
AE							10/10/00
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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
AL								
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AO								
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## OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.